

4. Citizens Utility Board

New York Public Interest Research Group

In a deregulated environment with far less state oversight, New York needs to reinstate the Citizens Utility Board.

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.

A Citizens Advisory Board is crucial. It is important that members of the public are represented, that oversight and accountability are provided, and feedback provided to the State from citizens.

New York City Environmental Justice Alliance

Consumers are entitled to just and fair pricing for electricity. They must be protected from price gouging and market manipulations. An active Citizens Utility Board . . . could provide this consumer protection. But the public needs to express their support for this board to the Governor and other elected officials, and has done so, to a large extent, through this [the State Energy Plan] process, and will continue to do so.

Jocelyn McGinnis

I want to make another plug for refunding and re-institution of the Citizens Utility Board.

New York Public Interest Research Group

The transfer of the sale of electricity for New York's utility market to a northeastern regional body dominated by electrical distributors and generators in a deregulated environment will require someone to look out for New York's interests. That's why New York needs to reinstate and fund the Citizens Utility Board.

Consumers Union

The State should support and fund the Citizens Utility Board.

New York State Sustainable Energy Coalition (NYS-SEC) et al.

In a deregulated environment, with far less State oversight, ratepayers need a mechanism that looks out for their interests and monitors the industry. New York needs to reinstate and fund the Citizens Utility Board.

Response: The Department of Public Service, The Department of Law, and The Consumer Protection Board are all charged with protecting the consumer's interests, and

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little evidence has been presented to support the reinstatement of the Citizens Utility Board. The Energy Planning Board welcomes and encourages citizens and businesses to form consumer advocacy groups and to advocate for their individual interests. The Planning Board does not support reinstating the Citizens Utility Board at this time.

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